

The Role of Environmental Health in Food Recovery



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May, 2017

California Health and Safety Code Section 101060

The county health officer **may designate** a nonprofit food distribution agency to coordinate and facilitate the donation of food and food products to nonprofit, charitable corporations, from available sources, including restaurants, grocery stores, or food distributors.



Feeding America Map the Meal Gap

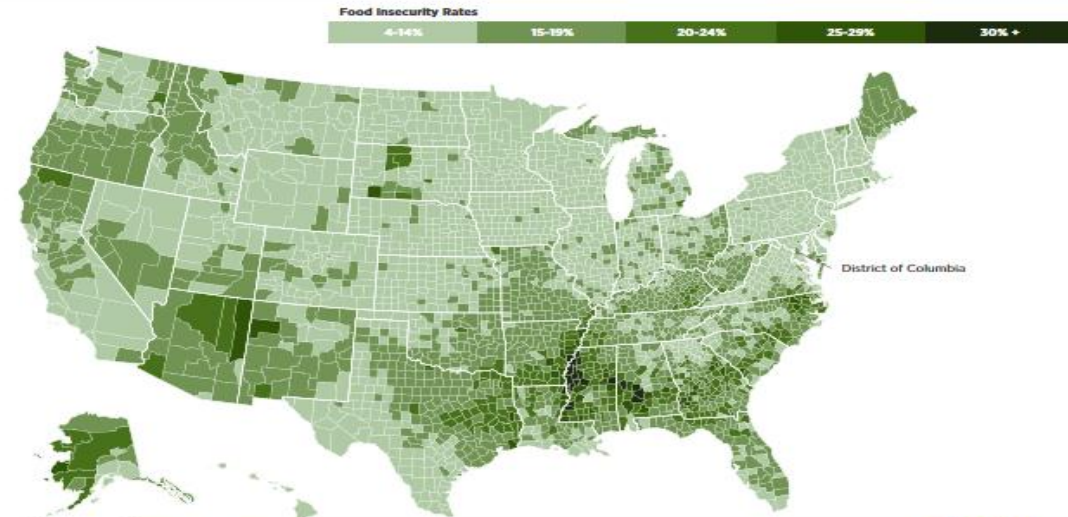


Food insecurity exists in every county and congressional district in the country. But not everyone struggling with hunger qualifies for federal nutrition assistance. Learn more about local food insecurity and the food banks in your community by exploring data from Feeding America's annual Map the Meal Gap project.

Food Insecurity in The United States

Change the selections below or simply click on the map to start exploring.

Map Type	County
Year	2014
Demographic	Overall
Location	National



FOOD INSECURE PEOPLE IN THE UNITED STATES

48,135,000



FOOD INSECURITY RATE IN THE UNITED STATES



15.4%

ESTIMATED PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY AMONG FOOD INSECURE PEOPLE IN THE UNITED STATES



26%	Above Other Nutrition Program threshold of 185% poverty
19%	Between 130%-185% poverty
54%	Below SNAP threshold 130% poverty

AVERAGE COST OF A MEAL

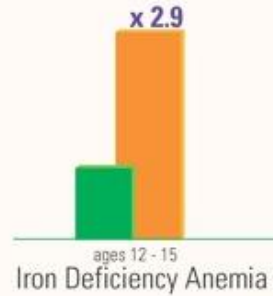
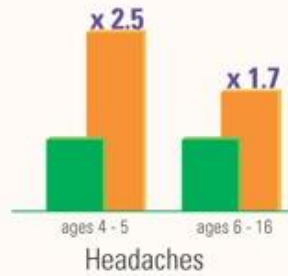
\$2.89

ADDITIONAL MONEY REQUIRED TO MEET FOOD NEEDS

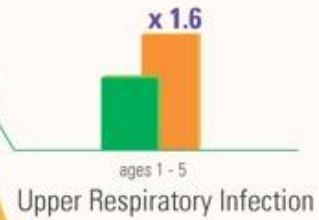
\$24,558,800,000

Child Food Insecurity

What health problems does it cause in children?

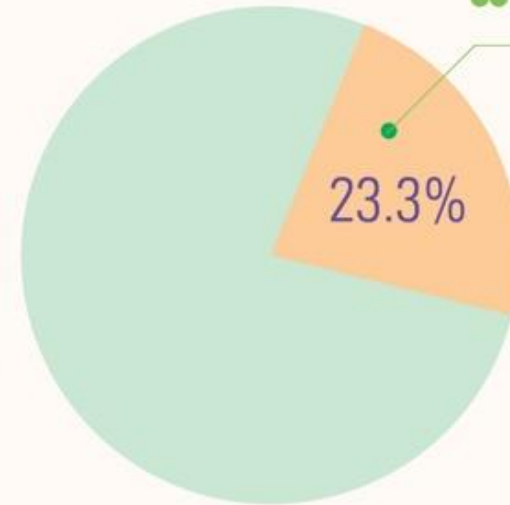


x1.9
more likely to be in
POOR HEALTH



What is Food Insecurity?

Food Insecurity is defined by the limited availability of nutritionally adequate and safe foods. It also depends on the limited availability to acquire food in a socially acceptable way.

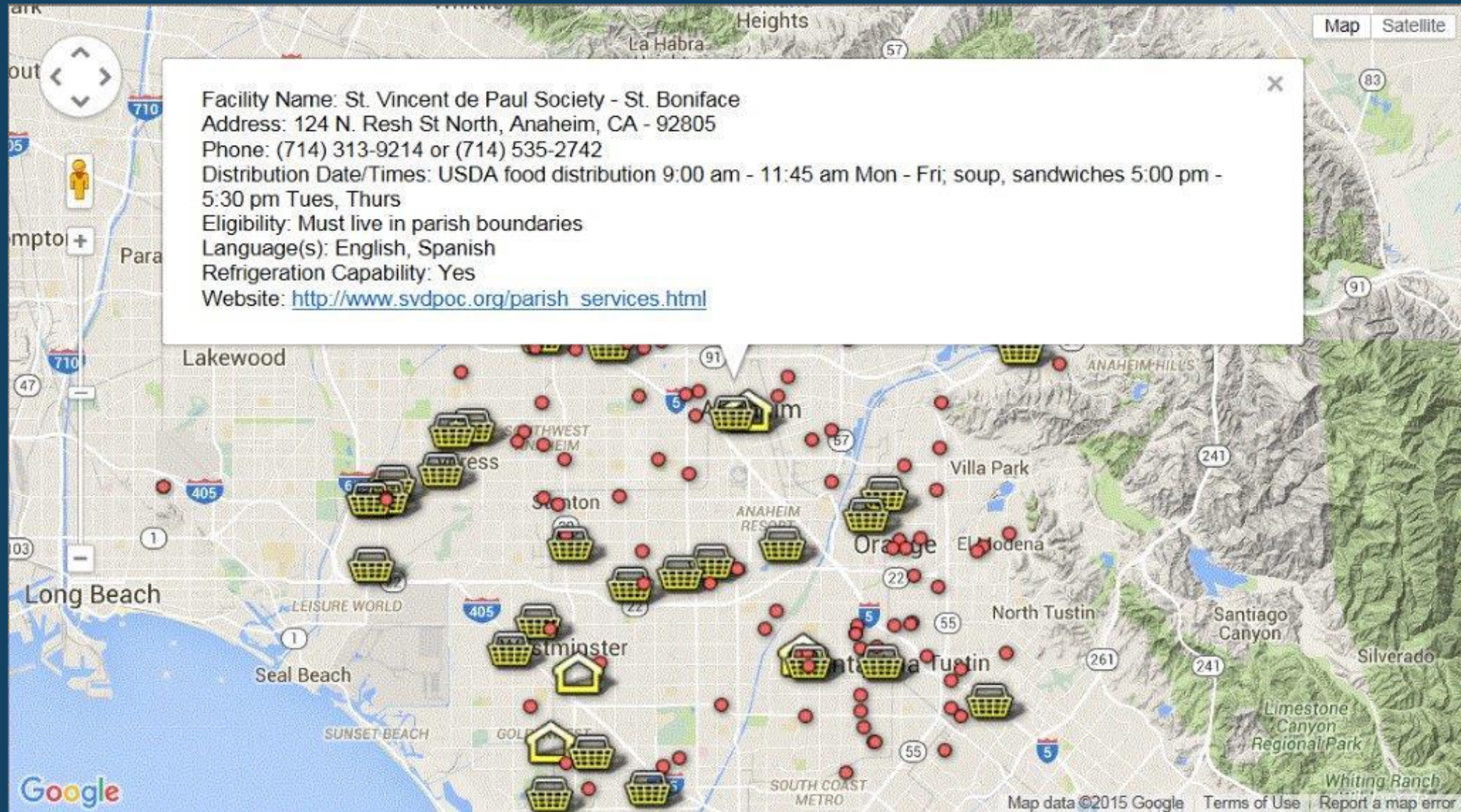


1 in 6
children suffer from
FOOD INSECURITY

Creation of Waste Not OC

- ◆ 2012- Co-Founded by OC Health Care Agency & OC Food Bank
 - ◆ Identified OC Environmental Health Inspectors as the main reason why food facilities DO NOT donate. Created 1-page info bulletin.
 - ◆ Brought together Government, Non-Profits and Food Industry
 - ◆ Created Google Map of pantries throughout Orange County
 - ◆ Created a Window Seal to recognize contributors
 - ◆ Partnered with Second Harvest, Food Finders for food collection
 - ◆ Pilot Project in Anaheim
 - ◆ Innovation: Yellow Cab for food delivery, partnership with schools

Interactive Google Pantry Map of Orange County



Waste Not OC Seal

Window seal to recognize
food donation participants
and supporters

All Orange County Yellow
Cabs have the seal in their
cabins



Anaheim School Pilot

Pick Ups by Yellow cab



Significant Milestones



- Support from the Board of Supervisors: \$100,000/year
- Support from United Way of Orange County: \$50,000/year 2014-2016
- 7 Kaiser Permanente hospitals in Orange and Los Angeles counties are now giving unserved meals. Anaheim, Irvine, Downey, Los Angeles, South Bay, Panorama City and Woodland Hills
- National Recognition: APHA, NACCHO, NACo, NEHA, National Geographic, Food Safety Summit
- Jurisdictions interested in WNOC: Los Angeles, San Diego, Long Beach, San Bernardino, Kern, Marin, Alameda, Riverside, Harris County, New Haven, CT

Multi-Pronged Approach

Food Recovery

Educate restaurants and grocery stores on the Good Samaritan Act to increase food donations.



Food Distribution

Connect those in need with pantries that provide wholesome food.

Identify Those in Need

Start asking the questions if individuals are facing food insecurity.

FOOD RECOVERY

Outreach

- **HCA Environmental Inspectors**
- Industry distributor sales reps.
- Trade/server ops.
- WNOC coordinator

Logistics

- Best Practices for Food Handlers
- Build upon current resources/partners
- For food recovery and distribution

Innovation

- Food recovery software
- Food recovery kitchen
- Bulk Food

repurposing repackaging
Culinary skills
Training program for:
vets, trouble, youth

How an Environmental Health Specialist ("Health Inspector") is Viewed

Breaking Down Our Type-Casted Role

- From the Guy who always says
- To



**Networking &
Communication**

FOOD RECOVERY EFFORTS BY ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

- ◆ Remember that 1-page Info Bulletin we created.....
- **Today...** Waste Not OC has been integrated into our Food Safety Publication Newsletters
- **In Fact,** Food recovery is part of the food safety culture for OC Environmental Health.....



Los Angeles Times Column:

Orange County program makes donating leftover food easier

◆ *“One of the genius aspects of Waste Not OC is the way it enlists county restaurant inspectors in the effort to reduce food waste. Since they're already interacting with restaurant owners, they're in the best position to educate potential donors.”*



David Lazarus Los Angeles Times Reporter
2016

THE ESSENTIAL ROLE ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH PLAYS IN FOOD RESCUE EFFORTS

◆ Lessons Learned

◆ Future



Food Waste Reduction Alliance: *The 2014 Report*

- ◇ A joint project by Food Marketing Institute, Grocery Manufacturer's Association & the National Restaurant Association
- ◇ Primary objectives of the Alliance:
 - ◇ Reduce the amount of waste generated
 - ◇ Increase food donations
 - ◇ Recycle and divert food waste away from landfills
- ◇ In line with EPA food recovery hierarchy



GOAL #1:
Reduce the
amount of food
waste generated

GOAL #2:
Increase the amount
of safe, nutritious
food donated to
those in need

GOAL #3:
Recycle unavoidable
food waste, diverting
it from landfills



Source: *Food Waste Reduction Alliance 2014 Report*

Liability Concerns: *Still the Greatest Barrier to Donating*



◇ From the 2014 *Food Waste Reduction Alliance Report*:

◇ Of the 1.4 Billion pounds of food donated by the food industry, 4.1 Billion pounds are disposed of

◇ Here are the barriers:

TYPES OF BARRIERS	MANUFACTURING	RETAIL & WHOLESALE
Transportation constraints	63%	42%
Liability concerns	50%	67%
Insufficient storage & refrigeration at food banks	50%	50%
Regulatory constraints	50%	17%
Insufficient on-site storage & refrigeration	38%	33%

Source: *Food Waste Reduction Alliance 2014 Report*

SB 1383

SUPER POLLUTANT REDUCTION ACT

- + 40% reduction in methane levels by 2030
- + ~20% reduction of edible food waste
- + Most aggressive law to tackle SLCPs in the country

AB 1826

SOLID WASTE: ORGANIC WASTE

- + Decomposing organic waste major source of GHGs
- + Business must recycle 75% of their organic waste by 2020
- + Redirects resources to composting/digestive ops, save landfill space, reduce emissions



PENDING LEGISLATION

AB 1219

**EXPANSION OF THE GOOD SAMARITAN
LAW**

SB 557

SCHOOL FOOD DONATION

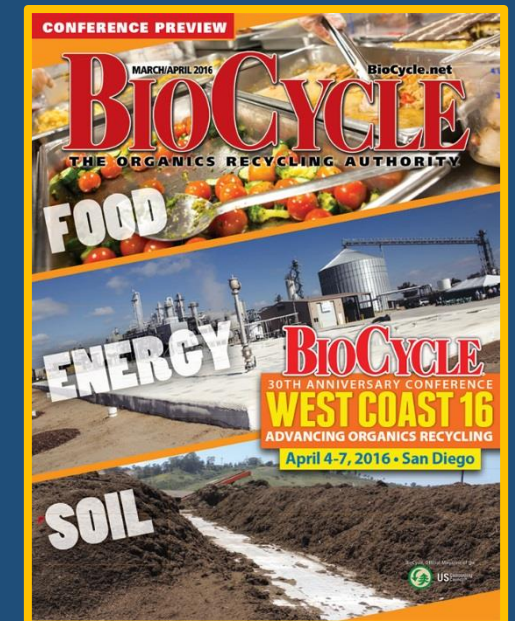
AB 954

**STANDARDIZED DATE LABELING
VOLUNTARY PROGRAM**



FUTURE TRENDS

- **Food Industry Leaders See Food Waste/ Recovery as a concern BUT also see the benefits:**
 - As a Social Concern - Feeding those in need
 - As a **Green** Initiative Concern
 - Waste & Recycling
 - Water Saving- Drought
 - The other **“GREEN”** Incentive: **Money \$\$\$\$**
 - Truly a “Win-Win-Win” situation
- **Environmental Health Needs to be Ready to Address & Answer:**
 - Food Safety Questions
 - Issues not Spelled out in Cal Code (Pantry permitting/exemptions)
 - “Expired” Food
 - Specialized training for Food Transporting Volunteers



BARRIERS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SPECIALISTS?



1. TIME
2. MONEY
3. CLEARER LAWS/
EXPECTATION

The Don Quixote Principle

So many dreams at first seem impossible. And then they seem improbable. And then when we summon the will, they soon become inevitable.

Christopher Reeve



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